

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 126  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Belmont University Speech and Debate Team on their outstanding victory at the 2003 Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensics Association state tournament.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary academic efforts have distinguished themselves as talented young people of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy group is the Speech and Debate Team of Belmont University from Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, recently this outstanding group of students swept the Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensics Association state tournament, placing first in Debate, second in Individual Events, and first in Overall Combined; and

WHEREAS, Belmont proudly held their own in the face of stiff competition from colleges and universities across the state, including the University of Tennessee and cross-town rival Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a total of twenty-one individual awards were also bestowed on Belmont University students including: Rebecca McKelvey, 1st place speaker in Debate; Ellery Gould, 1st place novice speaker in Debate; McKinley Belcher, 1st place in Persuasion; and Natonya Blackmun, 1st place in Communication Analysis; and

WHEREAS, other individual award winners included a number of finalists in Interpretive Events: Joy Hawkins in Persuasion and Duo; Sara McManigal in Prose and Duo; Crystal Jones in Poetry and Duo; and Chastity Gunn in Persuasion; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary group from Belmont University placed three teams in the semifinals of the Debate division with Casey Fincher and Nicole Licking placing second, Rebecca McKelvey and Tony Gross taking third place, and Travis Holloway and Ellery Gould finishing fourth; and

WHEREAS, this peerless championship team was comprised of Chasity Gunn, McKinley Belcher, Natonya Blackmun, Joy Hawkins, Crystal Jones, Sara McManigal, Nicole Licking, Casey Fincher, Tony Gross, Rebecca McKelvey, Laura Stewart, Ellery Gould, Aketa Simmons, Travis Holloway, Melanie Smith, Jonathon Guenther, Anna Katherine Cates, and Natalie Simpson; and

WHEREAS, this award-winning team has been very ably led and coached by Dr. Mary Vaughn of the Department of Communication Studies, who is truly deserving of much credit and praise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the members and coach of the Belmont University Speech and Debate Team for their accomplishments and their stature as some of the most impressive young people in our State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Belmont University Speech and

Debate Team on their outstanding victory at the 2003 Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensics Association state tournament and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate number of copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.